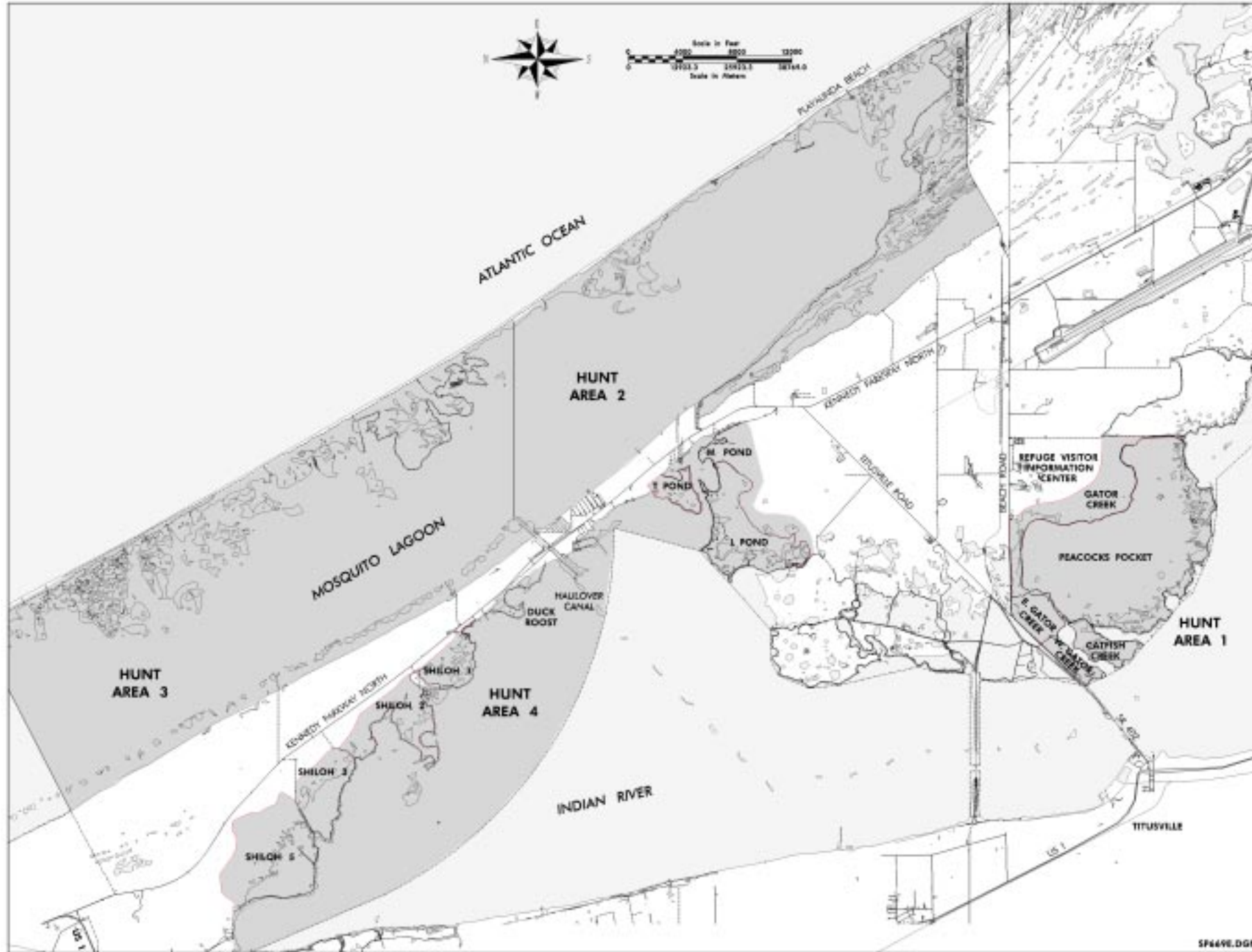


## Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge - Hunting Areas



Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 6504  
Titusville, Florida 32782  
321/861-0667  
<http://merrittisland.fws.gov>

<http://southeast.fws.gov>  
1-800-334-WILD



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Hunting Regulations



## MERRITT ISLAND

NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE  
REFUGE

# Welcome to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1963 as an overlay of the J. F. Kennedy Space Center. The tremendous variety of habitats found on the refuge and its location on the Atlantic flyway makes Merritt Island an important wintering area for migratory birds.

Concentrations of waterfowl occur in the open waters of Mosquito Lagoon and in the brackish and fresh water impoundments during the fall and winter. Common species include scaup, mottled ducks, blue-winged teal, pin-tail, and wigeon.

## Hunting on Merritt Island

Waterfowl hunting is permitted on 36,000 acres of the refuge's 140,000 acres. The remainder of the refuge is closed to hunting to protect non-game birdsand endangered species and to permit other recreational activities to take place. Hunting areas include the open waters of Mosquito Lagoon and mostimpoundments outside the NASA security areas. The waters of the Banana River are closed to hunting at all times. Some or all areas of the Refuge can be closed by NASA for Safety or Security purposes. When NASA expands their Security perimeter, it affects the use of Hunt Area 1, 2, and the southern portion of 4. The Refuge will post this information on our Web Site and in the area newspapers. If you have questions, it is advisable to call the Refuge in advancer of your visit. Individuals found in NASA's "normal" or "expanded" Restricted Area are subject to arrest. The Refuge has no control over NASA's closures and refunds forquota permits will not be provided.

## Hunting Regulations

Waterfowl hunting on Merritt Island NWR is in accordance with Florida and Federal Migratory Bird Regulations. Hunters should consult these regulations before going afield. Refuge regulations, listed below, also apply.

- Permits-** You must posses a current signed Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Hunt Permit for the current year at all times while hunting on the Refuge. The permit, attached to this leaflet, is self-issuing and required by all hunters. In addition, a Quota Hunt Permit is required for Hunt Area 1 and 4 during the months of November and December. You must apply for a Quota Permit and it is valid for a specific impoundment on the date(s) stamped on the permit.

It can be used for a single party consisting of one to four hunters. The party may occupy separate blinds but must remain within 30 yards of the permit holder. All Permits must be kept in the hunter's possession while hunting. Quota Permits are not required outside refuge impoundments nor are required during the Early Teal Season or in January. Quota Permits may be transferred to another individual by signing the back of the card. (See details below for applying)

- Season-** The open season for ducks and coots is concurrent with seasons established by Florida. (See Hunt Days) No species other than ducks or coots may be taken.
- Hunt Days-** Hunting is allowed three days each week, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday and holid-ays (Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years) within the framework of the State season. Hunting is al- lowed from one-half hour before sunrise until 1:00

## Applying for Quota Permits

Quota Permits are issued for Wednesday's (one-day permit) or Saturday and Sundays (two-day permits) during the months of November and December for Hunt Area 1 and 4. When a hunt day adjoins a holiday the permit will be good for Wednesday and the holiday.

**Call-in Dates-** 2003 Quota Permits will be issued by phone on the following dates **October 11, 15 and 18**. No walk-in customers will be accepted. The call in numbers are: **(321) 861-1274, 861- 1275, and 861- 2805**. Do not call these numbers for hunter information. They are reserved for issuing permits only. Calls will be accepted between the hours of 8:00 a.m. till noon on these dates.

**Information Needed** to Apply Hunters must be 18 years of age or older to obtain a Quota Permit. An individual may obtain one permit per day. With three call-in days, an individual may obtain up to three Quota Permits. Another individual may call to obtain a permit for you. When calling the following information is required: Name as it appears on your Hunter Safety Card, Hunter Safety Card Number, Mailing Address, Phone Number, Date of Birth, Impound- ment Name you wish to hunt, and the Hunt Date. Please have alternate dates and impoundments ready in case your first choice is unavailable. After you have made your selection, you will be issued a confirmation number. Write it down. You will need it when paying for your permit(s).

p.m. Entry into the Refuge for waterfowl hunting may begin no earlier than 4:00 a.m.

- Hunt Areas-** Hunting for waterfowl is permitted in four areas of the Refuge. The areas open to hunting are delineated on the map on the reverse side.
- Parking-** Hunter Parking is allowed on dike roads within the hunt areas or on hunt access routes leading up to the hunt areas. Motor vehicles are not allowed behind barricades. All vehicle and boat trailers must be pulled off the side to allow other vehicles to pass safely. You may not access hunt areas from the following locations: Black Point Wildlife Drive, Scrub Ridge Trail and Playalinda Beach Road. (Hunters' may park at Eddy Creek) Vehicles parked in these locations may be towed.
- State Certified Hunter Safety-** is required by all hunters in all areas. Hunters must carry their wallet-

**Fees-** Each Quota Permit cost **\$12.50**. To claim your permit mail or bring the following to the Refuge: 1) **Check or Money Order** made payable to Fish and Wildlife Service (print confirmation number on the check or money order). Cash will not be accepted. 2) Copy of your **Wallet-sized Hunter Safety Card** (may not be required if you received a permit in 2002.) 3) If mailing your payment, you must also include a **self-addressed stamped legal-sized envelope**. The **deadline** to receive payment is **October 31**. Your permit(s) and hunt map(s) will be returned in the envelope you provide. You may pay in person at the Visitor Center Monday-Friday from 8:00- 4:30. The mailing address for the Refuge is found on the inside back cover.

Leftover Permits- Unclaimed or leftover permits go on sale at the Visitor Center on November 1, at 8:00 a.m. To obtain leftover permits you must show up in person. Individu- als 18 years or older with a Hunter Safety Card may purchase up to three leftover permits at \$12.50 each. Quota Permits may not be resold. Lost permits will not be reissued.

**Dates to Remember:**  
October 11, 15 & 18 Issue dates for Call-in Permits  
October 31 Deadline for Quota Payments  
November 1 Leftover Permits go on Sale (Walk-In)

sized card as proof of completing the course while hunting. The Refuge honors all state-sponsored hunter safety training courses.

- Youth Hunting-** is in accordance with Florida Law. Youth hunters must remain in sight and normal voice contact with an adult 18 years or older.
- Steel Shot-** Only steel or other approved nontoxic shot may be used. Possession of lead or other toxic shot is prohibited.
- Hunting Blinds-** Hunters may bring portable blinds or construct temporary blinds of natural vegetation. Tem- porary blinds do not become the builder's property and are available for general use on subsequent days. Constructions of permanent blinds, pit blinds and digging into dikes are prohibited activities.
- Hunting and Shooting-** within 150 yards of any dike or roadway is prohibited.
- Personal Property-** such as decoy, boats and other gear must be removed daily by 2:00 p.m.
- Dogs-** The use of retrievers is encouraged. Dogs must remain under control or leashed at all times.
- Camping-** and overnight parking is prohibited. (See Hunt Days above for entry time)

**Manatee Regulations-** Most lagoon waters of the Refuge are regulated for manatee protection. Heed all posted speed limits.

**Professional Hunting Guides-** are required to pur- chase a Special Use Permit and have it in their possession while guiding.


**Alcohol-** The possession or use of alcoholic Bever- ages while hunting is prohibited.

**Universal Access-** Special accommodations are available for persons with physical disabilities. Con- tact the Refuge for additional information.

**Repeat Violations-** of Refuge regulations may result in loss of hunting privileges.

## Waterfowl Management Notes

Proper water level and adequate food availability are two very important aspects of waterfowl habitat. To ensure continuing high-quality habitat, marsh restoration projects were initiated. The objective is to enhance the salt marsh ecosystem for many different species in coordination with




Merritt Island  
National Wildlife Refuge  
2003-2004 Hunt Permit  
for  
Duck and Coot

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Print

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
I have read and understand Merritt Island N. W. R.'s hunting regulations.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
(This permit valid only when signed.)



Merritt Island  
National Wildlife Refuge  
2003-2004 Hunt Permit  
for  
Duck and Coot

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Print

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
I have read and understand Merritt Island N. W. R.'s hunting regulations.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
(This permit valid only when signed.)

mosquito control operations. Restoring the marsh areas by reconnecting them to the river will allow for greater species diversity in the impoundments. It will also be a part of the overall management of the Indian River Lagoon System in its entirety. Short-term inconveniences to waterfowl hunters may be realized in some areas. Lower water levels in various areas on a rotational basis will allow plants (waterfowl food) to grow in the otherwise nutrient-poor mud flats. This will help reestablish a food chain and provide better food supplies to increase the quality of habitat (and hunting) on a long-term basis. If you have questions about this project, contact the Refuge Headquarters. If you see anyone tampering with water control structures please call or contact the refuge.

**For further information, write:**  
Refuge Manager  
Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 6504  
Titusville, Florida 32782  
Phone (321) 861-0667  
Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
or visit our website: <http://merrittisland.fws.gov>.